

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A programmable device comprising a computer readable medium storing programming code for controlling the device to perform processing comprising:
storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;
in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a program or segment;
receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and
updating viewer preferences in accordance with the user selections;
wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.
2. (Original) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program.
3. (Original) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed segment.
4. (Original) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein the characteristics comprise at least one of categories and key words.
5. (Currently Amended) A method in a programmable device, comprising :
storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;
in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a program or segment;
receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and
updating viewer preferences in accordance with the user selections;
wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.

6. (Original) A method in a programmable device, comprising:
storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs; and
in response to a command, updating viewer preferences stored by the device in accordance with segment characteristics represented in the segment metadata of a currently viewed segment.

7. (Currently Amended) A programmable device comprising a computer readable medium storing programming code for controlling the device to perform processing comprising:
storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;
in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a segment or program;
receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and
identifying and displaying to the user additional segments and programs having characteristics in common with the selected characteristics;
wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.

8. (Original) The device claimed in claim 7, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program.

9. (Original) The device claimed in claim 7, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed segment.

10. (Original) The method claimed in claim 7, wherein the characteristics comprise at least one of categories and key words.

11. (Currently Amended) A method in a programmable device, comprising:
storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;

in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a segment or program;

receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and

identifying and displaying to the user additional segments and programs having characteristics in common with the selected characteristics-;

wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.

12. (Original) A method in a programmable device, comprising:

storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;

in response to a command, identifying and displaying to the user additional segments and programs having characteristics in common with characteristics represented in the segment metadata of a currently viewed segment.

13. – 16. (Cancelled)